

Defense Department Base Closing Plan Would Disproportionately Affect the Northeast-Midwest Region

By Matt Kane, Northeast-Midwest Institute, May 13, 2005

The Northeast-Midwest region accounts for the smallest share of the nation's military and civilian Defense Department personnel, but the region would once again bear a disproportionate share of the personnel cutbacks if the government adopts recommendations released May 13, 2005, by the secretary of defense. The 18 Northeast-Midwest states, which account for 11 percent of all U.S.-based active duty forces and 24 percent of all U.S.-based Defense Department personnel, would sustain about 40 percent of the drop in personnel recommended under the plan, counting net decreases for the 28 states that would see personnel decline and for the District of Columbia.

The West, too, would sustain a disproportionate share of the cuts under the plan, accounting for 35 percent of the drop in personnel among the losing states and DC even though the West makes up about 30 percent of current Defense Department personnel. By contrast, the South, including the District of Columbia, would account for a quarter of the net drops in personnel among the losing states and DC even though the region is home to almost half (47 percent) of all U.S.-based Defense Department personnel.

Counting both losses and gains proposed for states in the region, the Northeast-Midwest would suffer a net loss of 13,527 Defense Department personnel under the plan, with a net decline of 12,791 workers in the Northeast and a net decrease of 736 for the Midwest.

Data from the May 13 announcement show that three states in the Northeast would rank in the top 10 for net losses of total Defense Department personnel if the proposed base closings and realignments are instituted: Connecticut ranks first for a projected loss of 8,174 personnel, Maine ranks second for a projected loss of 6,619 personnel, and New Jersey ranks sixth for a projected loss of 3,760 personnel. Others in the top 10 rankings, which include the District of Columbia, are DC at third for a projected loss of 5,850, Alaska at fourth for a projected loss of 4,818, Kentucky at fifth for a projected loss of 3,842, Virginia at seventh for a projected loss of 3,742, South Dakota at eight for a projected loss of 3,698, Missouri at ninth for a projected loss of 3,520, and New Mexico at tenth for a projected loss of 2,794. These data look only at counts for military and civilian Defense Department personnel and do not include plans for changes in site personnel employed by military contractors. (For data on contractors and total site personnel, including contractors, see the last table listed below.)

Other Northeast-Midwest states slated for cuts in Defense Department personnel under the plan include Illinois (11th at -2,774), Pennsylvania (14th at -1,864), New York (18th at -1,065), Wisconsin (20th at -552), Minnesota (24th at -262), and Iowa (29th at -6).

The secretary of defense submitted the department's May 13 recommendation to a nine-member commission on base realignment and closure (BRAC). The BRAC Commission will review the recommendations, hold public meetings to solicit input, change the secretary's recommendations if necessary, and submit its own recommendations to the president by Sept. 8, 2005. In the past, BRAC Commissions have adopted the vast majority of the secretary's recommendations. If the president approves the commission's 2005 recommendations, they become binding upon the Defense Department unless Congress enacts a joint resolution disapproving the full list of recommendations within 45 legislative days of submission by the president. If the president disapproves of the recommendations before Sept. 23, the commission must revise its recommendations and resubmit them to the president by October 20, 2005, again for approval and implementation, barring disapproval from Congress.

The Northeast-Midwest has been hit hard by personnel shifts and previous BRAC rounds in 1988, 1991, 1993, and 1995. From 1987 to 2002, when the Defense Department carried out four rounds of base closings and realignments, the number of active duty military personnel fell by 41 percent in the Northeast-Midwest, compared to 21 percent in the South and West. For reserve and National Guard forces, the region experienced a 37 percent drop, compared to 22 percent for the rest of the country. For civilian Defense Department employees, the decline in the Northeast-Midwest was 41 percent, compared to 34 percent elsewhere. For more information on the disproportionate impact of defense cuts on the region, see the April 2005 update on *Base Closings and Military Presence in the Northeast-Midwest*, available for download at <http://www.nemw.org/BRAC2005updateweb.pdf>.

The tables that follow shows net state-by-state impacts of the May 13 recommendations on total Defense Department personnel, military and civilian Defense Department personnel, military contractors at defense sites, and total personnel (both Defense Department personnel and personnel employed by contractors).

Impacts of Defense Department Recommendations for Base Closings and Realignments on Total Defense Department Personnel

Northeast-Midwest Institute, May 13, 2005

State or Region	Total DoD Personnel ¹ : Proposed NetChange	Percent of U.S. Cuts in TotalDoD ²	Rank for Drop in Total DoD Personnel
<i>States + DC with Net Losses:</i>	29		
New England			
Connecticut	-8,174	12.7	1
Maine	-6,619	10.3	2
Massachusetts	491	0.0	
New Hampshire	4	0.0	
Rhode Island	607	0.0	
Vermont	56	0.0	
Total	-13,635	22.9	
Mid-Atlantic			
Delaware	91	0.0	
Maryland	7,442	0.0	
New Jersey	-3,760	5.8	6
New York	-1,065	1.7	18
Pennsylvania	-1,864	2.9	14
Total	844	10.4	
Midwest			
Illinois	-2,774	4.3	11
Indiana	2,491	0.0	
Iowa	-6	0.0	29
Michigan	201	0.0	
Minnesota	-262	0.4	24
Ohio	166	0.0	
Wisconsin	-552	0.9	20
Total	-736	5.6	
South			
Alabama	1,614	0.0	
Arkansas	3,585	0.0	
District of Columbia	-5,850	9.1	3
Florida	2,796	0.0	
Georgia	6,706	0.0	
Kentucky	-3,842	6.0	5
Louisiana	-1,190	1.8	16
Mississippi	-1,420	2.2	15
North Carolina	-261	0.4	25
Oklahoma	3,922	0.0	
South Carolina	754	0.0	
Tennessee	1,000	0.0	
Texas	6,663	0.0	
Virginia	-3,742	5.8	7
West Virginia	-251	0.4	26
Total	10,484	25.7	
West			
Alaska	-4,818	7.5	4
Arizona	-551	0.9	21
California	-1,985	3.1	13
Colorado	4,941	0.0	
Hawaii	-298	0.5	23
Idaho	-659	1.0	19
Kansas	3,741	0.0	
Missouri	-3,520	5.5	9
Montana	-124	0.2	28
Nebraska	-207	0.3	27
Nevada	1,139	0.0	
New Mexico	-2,794	4.3	10
North Dakota	-2,645	4.1	12
Oregon	-1,083	1.7	17
South Dakota	-3,698	5.7	8
Utah	-446	0.7	22
Washington	767	0.0	
Wyoming	37	0.0	
Total	-12,203	35.4	
Northeast	-12,791	33.3	
Midwest	-736	5.6	
Northeast and Midwest	-13,527	38.9	
South	10,484	25.7	
West	-12,203	35.4	
South and West	-1,719	61.1	
U.S. Total³	-15,246	100.0	
Total: State Losses Only	-64,460		

¹Total Defense Department personnel includes military and civilian Defense Department. It does not include contractors at a Defense Department facility but employed by private companies.

²Levels for percentages of U.S. cuts compare the net losses for a state or region to the losses among all states that would experience a decrease in personnel under the Defense Department's May 13, 2005, recommendations. For example, Connecticut's loss of 8,174 Defense Department workers would amount to 12.7 percent of the 64,460 drop in Defense Department personnel for the 29 states that would see a decline in Defense Department personnel under the May 13 recommendations. Net gains in Defense Department personnel for the other 21 states mean that the May 13 proposal calls for an overall decrease of 15,246 Defense Department personnel in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

³U.S. totals do not include Puerto Rico or the territories.

Source: Northeast-Midwest Institute calculations based on data from the Department of Defense in "BRAC 2005 Closure and Realignment Impacts by State," May 13, 2005, downloadable at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2005/d20050513BRAC.pdf>.

Impacts of Defense Department Recommendations for Base Closings and Realignments on Military & DoD Civilian Personnel

Northeast-Midwest Institute, May 13, 2005

State or Region	Military Personnel: Proposed NetChange	Percent of U.S. Cuts in Military ¹	Rank for Drop in Military Personnel	Civilian Personnel: Proposed NetChange	Percent of U.S. Cuts in Civilian ¹	Rank for Drop in Civilian Personnel
<i>States + DC with Net Losses:</i>	34			30		
New England						
Connecticut	-7,133	16.6	1	-1,041	2.7	9
Maine	-2,480	5.8	6	-4,139	10.7	2
Massachusetts	416	0.0		75	0.0	
New Hampshire	-19	0.0	34	23	0.0	
Rhode Island	498	0.0		109	0.0	
Vermont	3	0.0		53	0.0	
Total	-8,715	22.4		-4,920	13.4	
Mid-Atlantic						
Delaware	61	0.0		30	0.0	
Maryland	-1,570	3.7	10	9,012	0.0	
New Jersey	-47	0.1	30	-3,713	9.6	3
New York	-68	0.2	29	-997	2.6	11
Pennsylvania	-1,435	3.3	11	-429	1.1	18
Total	-3,059	7.3		3,903	13.3	
Midwest						
Illinois	-2,037	4.7	9	-737	1.9	13
Indiana	-150	0.3	26	2,641	0.0	
Iowa	-194	0.5	23	188	0.0	
Michigan	-157	0.4	25	358	0.0	
Minnesota	-138	0.3	27	-124	0.3	28
Ohio	400	0.0		-234	0.6	24
Wisconsin	-398	0.9	20	-154	0.4	26
Total	-2,674	7.2		1,938	3.2	
South						
Alabama	-404	0.9	19	2,018	0.0	
Arkansas	3,420	0.0		165	0.0	
District of Columbia	-2,934	6.8	5	-2,916	7.6	5
Florida	3,798	0.0		-1,002	2.6	10
Georgia	8,677	0.0		-1,971	5.1	7
Kentucky	-5,324	12.4	2	1,482	0.0	
Louisiana	-710	1.7	15	-480	1.2	17
Mississippi	-995	2.3	13	-425	1.1	19
North Carolina	-568	1.3	16	307	0.0	
Oklahoma	3,448	0.0		474	0.0	
South Carolina	1,464	0.0		-710	1.8	14
Tennessee	383	0.0		617	0.0	
Texas	9,838	0.0		-3,175	8.2	4
Virginia	5,101	0.0		-8,843	22.9	1
West Virginia	-125	0.3	28	-126	0.3	27
Total	25,069	25.7		-14,585	51.0	
West						
Alaska	-4,227	9.8	3	-591	1.5	15
Arizona	-193	0.4	24	-358	0.9	22
California	-785	1.8	14	-1,200	3.1	8
Colorado	4,585	0.0		356	0.0	
Hawaii	-299	0.7	21	1	0.0	
Idaho	-567	1.3	17	-92	0.2	29
Kansas	3,318	0.0		423	0.0	
Missouri	-1,167	2.7	12	-2,353	6.1	6
Montana	-40	0.1	32	-84	0.2	30
Nebraska	-42	0.1	31	-165	0.4	25
Nevada	1,045	0.0		94	0.0	
New Mexico	-2,420	5.6	7	-374	1.0	21
North Dakota	-2,290	5.3	8	-355	0.9	23
Oregon	-246	0.6	22	-837	2.2	12
South Dakota	-3,287	7.7	4	-411	1.1	20
Utah	77	0.0		-523	1.4	16
Washington	-496	1.2	18	1,263	0.0	
Wyoming	-21	0.0	33	58	0.0	
Total	-7,055	37.4		-5,148	19.0	
Northeast	-11,774	29.7		-1,017	26.8	
Midwest	-2,674	7.2		1,938	3.2	
Northeast and Midwest	-14,448	36.8		921	30.0	
South	25,069	25.7		-14,585	51.0	
West	-7,055	37.4		-5,148	19.0	
South and West	18,014	63.2		-19,733	70.0	
U.S. Total²	3,566	100.0		-18,812	100.0	
Total: State Losses Only	-42,966			-38,559		

¹Levels for percentages of U.S. cuts compare the net losses for a state or region to the losses among all states that would experience a decrease in personnel under the Defense Department's May 13, 2005, recommendations. For example, Connecticut's loss of 7,133 military personnel would amount to 16.6 percent of the 42,966 drop in military personnel for the 34 states that would see a decline in military personnel under the May 13 recommendations. Net gains in military personnel for the other 16 states mean that the May 13 proposal calls for an overall increase of 3,566 military personnel in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

²U.S. totals do not include Puerto Rico or the territories.

Source: Northeast-Midwest Institute calculations based on data from the Department of Defense in "BRAC 2005 Closure and Realignment Impacts by State," May 13, 2005, downloadable at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2005/d20050513BRAC.pdf>.

Impacts of Defense Department Recommendations for Base Closings and Realignments on Contractors & Total Site Personnel

Northeast-Midwest Institute, May 13, 2005

State or Region	Mission Contractor ¹ : Proposed NetChange	Percent of U.S. Cuts in Mis.Contr. ²	Rank for Drop in Mis.Contr. Personnel	Total Personnel ³ : Proposed NetChange	Percent of U.S. Cuts in Total ²	Rank for Drop in Total Personnel
<i>States + DC with Net Losses:</i>	24			29		
New England						
Connecticut	-412	11.5	3	-8,586	13.4	1
Maine	-319	8.9	4	-6,938	10.8	2
Massachusetts	0	0.0		491	0.0	
New Hampshire	0	0.0		4	0.0	
Rhode Island	-76	2.1	13	531	0.0	
Vermont	0	0.0		56	0.0	
Total	-807	22.5		-14,442	24.2	
Mid-Atlantic						
Delaware	0	0.0		91	0.0	
Maryland	1,851	0.0		9,293	0.0	
New Jersey	0	0.0		-3,760	5.9	6
New York	-6	0.2	22	-1,071	1.7	18
Pennsylvania	-14	0.4	20	-1,878	2.9	13
Total	1,831	0.6		2,675	10.5	
Midwest						
Illinois	76	0.0		-2,698	4.2	10
Indiana	-294	8.2	5	2,197	0.0	
Iowa	0	0.0		-6	0.0	29
Michigan	-76	2.1	13	125	0.0	
Minnesota	0	0.0		-262	0.4	25
Ohio	75	0.0		241	0.0	
Wisconsin	0	0.0		-552	0.9	20
Total	-219	10.3		-955	5.5	
South						
Alabama	1,050	0.0		2,664	0.0	
Arkansas	0	0.0		3,585	0.0	
District of Columbia	-646	18.0	1	-6,496	10.1	3
Florida	-39	1.1	17	2,757	0.0	
Georgia	717	0.0		7,423	0.0	
Kentucky	184	0.0		-3,658	5.7	8
Louisiana	-107	3.0	10	-1,297	2.0	16
Mississippi	-258	7.2	6	-1,678	2.6	14
North Carolina	-161	4.5	7	-422	0.7	23
Oklahoma	-3	0.1	24	3,919	0.0	
South Carolina	-45	1.3	16	709	0.0	
Tennessee	88	0.0		1,088	0.0	
Texas	-513	14.3	2	6,150	0.0	
Virginia	2,168	0.0		-1,574	2.5	15
West Virginia	0	0.0		-251	0.4	26
Total	2,435	49.3		12,919	24.0	
West						
Alaska	199	0.0		-4,619	7.2	4
Arizona	1	0.0		-550	0.9	21
California	-33	0.9	18	-2,018	3.1	12
Colorado	-24	0.7	19	4,917	0.0	
Hawaii	0	0.0		-298	0.5	24
Idaho	0	0.0		-659	1.0	19
Kansas	-159	4.4	8	3,582	0.0	
Missouri	-159	4.4	8	-3,679	5.7	7
Montana	0	0.0		-124	0.2	28
Nebraska	-6	0.2	22	-213	0.3	27
Nevada	-80	2.2	12	1,059	0.0	
New Mexico	-55	1.5	15	-2,849	4.4	9
North Dakota	0	0.0		-2,645	4.1	11
Oregon	0	0.0		-1,083	1.7	17
South Dakota	-99	2.8	11	-3,797	5.9	5
Utah	0	0.0		-446	0.7	22
Washington	-7	0.2	21	760	0.0	
Wyoming	0	0.0		37	0.0	
Total	-422	17.3		-12,625	35.8	
Northeast	1,024	23.0		-11,767	34.7	
Midwest	-219	10.3		-955	5.5	
Northeast and Midwest	805	33.3		-12,722	40.2	
South	2,435	49.3		12,919	24.0	
West	-422	17.3		-12,625	35.8	
South and West	2,013	66.7		294	59.8	
U.S. Total⁴	2,818	100.0		-12,428	100.0	
Total: State Losses Only	-3,591			-64,107		

¹Mission contractors work at Defense Department facilities but are employed by private-sector contractors and therefore are not Defense Department employees.

²Levels for percentages of U.S. cuts compare the net losses for a state or region to the losses among all states that would experience a decrease in personnel under the Defense Department's May 13, 2005, recommendations. For example, Connecticut's loss of 8,586 total personnel would amount to 13.4 percent of the 64,107 drop in total personnel for the 29 states that would see a decline in military personnel under the May 13 recommendations. Net gains in military personnel for the other 21 states mean that the May 13 proposal calls for an overall decrease of 12,428 in total personnel in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

³Total personnel includes military, civilian Defense Department, and contractors not employed by the Defense Department.

⁴U.S. totals do not include Puerto Rico or the territories.

Source: Northeast-Midwest Institute calculations based on data from the Department of Defense in "BRAC 2005 Closure and Realignment Impacts by State," May 13, 2005, downloadable at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2005/d20050513BRAC.pdf>.